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PETROGRAPHY AND MINERALOGY.

The Characters of Crystals.¹ — "I have attempted, in this book, to describe, simply and concisely, the methods and apparatus used in studying the physical characters of crystals, and to record and explain the observed phenomena without complex mathematical discussions" (from author's preface).

The book is divided into three parts and fourteen chapters. The first part discusses the geometrical characters of crystals, the second part the optical characters, and the third part the thermal, magnetic, and electrical characters and those depending upon elasticity and cohesion. In an appendix of seven pages a laboratory course in physical mineralogy is outlined.

While there is nothing new in the presentation or in the subject-matter of the little volume, it nevertheless will be useful as a laboratory manual, since there are to be found in it very concise descriptions of all the methods usually made use of in determining the physical constants of crystals, and in recording the results of angle measurements. In order, however, that it may be of the greatest value to the student, the topics discussed in it should be preceded by a course of lectures in which the principles involved in the descriptions are explained in more detail than has been done in the book.

Many of the methods described are here presented for the first time in English, and for this reason, if for no other, the little volume should meet with a welcome in all mineralogical laboratories. W. S. B.

The First Appendix to the Sixth Edition of Dana's System of Mineralogy, by Edward S. Dana,² completes this great work to the beginning of the year 1899. It includes a list of the new mineral names that have been proposed since the *System of Mineralogy* appeared, descriptions of each of the substances indicated by these names, and an account of all the important additions to our knowledge of the species described in the large manual. A vast amount of information is included in the seventy-five pages of the Appendix, and all of it may be depended upon as being trustworthy.

The *System*, with the addition of the Appendix, probably constitutes the most complete summary of a science that exists in any language. W. S. B.

¹ Moses, Alfred J. *The Characters of Crystals. An Introduction to Physical Crystallography.* New York, D. Van Nostrand Company, 1899. viii + 211 pp., 321 figs.

² New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1899. x + 75 pp. Price, \$1.00.